

Daniel N. Abrahamson, Director of Legal Affairs, Drug Policy Alliance

Daniel N. Abrahamson is Director of Legal Affairs for Drug Policy Alliance and its 501(c)4 affiliate, the Drug Policy Alliance Network, where he oversees litigation, legislative drafting and public education efforts concerning drug policy reform. Mr. Abrahamson has co-authored several successful state ballot initiatives in the field of drug policy reform, including California's Proposition 36, The Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act 2000 that is expected to divert an estimated 36,000 non-violent drug possession offenders each year from jail and prison into community-based treatment, vocational and educational programs. In partial recognition of his legal work, Mr. Abrahamson was awarded in 2002 the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's *Developing Leadership in Reducing Substance Abuse* three-year fellowship to help him continue his work in the field of drug law reform. He has taught courses on criminal justice and drug policy at Yale University, Fisk University, and Hastings College of the Law, and currently co-teaches an upper-level seminar on the legal and social implications of the war on drugs at the University of California-Berkeley Law School (Boalt Hall). Mr. Abrahamson received his B.A. from Yale University, his M.A. from Oxford University, and his J.D. from New York University School of Law where he was a Root-Tilden-Kern Scholar. He served as a law clerk to the Hon. Gilbert S. Merritt, then Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, and for the Hon. William L. Dwyer, United States District Court for the Western District of Washington, Seattle. Before joining DPA, Mr. Abrahamson assisted in the representation of death sentenced inmates.